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ST. NEOTS
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
and
Surveyor & Chief Sanitary
Inspector
FOR THE YEAR
1954

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954

by

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S.,
D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Second Annual Report on the health and Sanitary Conditions of the district.

The year under review has not been marked by any major change in the health of the district. The death rate shows a fractional increase over last year's figures but it is still below the average for England and Wales. The birth rate remains practically the same as last year and is still above the average for the country as a whole.

In common with the rest of the country the two most common causes of deaths in the district, in order of incidence were due to (i) diseases of the cardio-vascular system and (ii) Cancer.

It is gratifying to note that still another year has gone without there having been any case of either poliomyelitis or diphtheria. After the 1953 outbreak of poliomyelitis, immunisation against diphtheria is again in full swing and during the year 189 children were immunised in the district.

No serious outbreaks of infectious diseases occurred during the year and the control measures to deal with the ordinary notifiable conditions appear to have been quite adequate. Whooping cough and scarlet fever were the most common conditions in this category and occurred in that order of incidence.

Water supply in the district is most satisfactory and over 93% of the houses are connected to the public main. Examination of samples both raw and treated, show that the water is safe and wholesome.

A sewage scheme for portions of Buckden is now well on the way. It is to be hoped that the Ministry will give very early consent for tenders to be approved so that a similar scheme can be got under way in Kimbolton and Great Staughton on which the Ministry held an Inquiry in January, 1954.

The Council has very satisfactorily dealt with the most urgent cases of families requiring new homes and the housing survey to be submitted to the Ministry by the end of August, 1955, is well under way. When this is complete the Council can then formulate its future housing needs.

In conclusion I should like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Council for the kindness and consideration they have shown to me, and also to all their officers for their unfailing help and co-operation.

Your obedient servant,

J. CALDWELL.

STAFF.**Medical Officer of Health.****J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.****Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor and Water Engineer.****M. FAWCETT, M.S.I.A., M.R. San.I.**

(Tel. St. Neots 402/3 and Buckden 282).

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor.**D. F. SWEETING, M.S.I.A.**

(Tel. Kimbolton 303).

Water Superintendent.**S. G. ERRIDGE (Tel. Kimbolton 348).****STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

Area: 52,559 acres (approximately 81 square miles).

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1954: 2,416.

Rateable Value of the district: £30,386.

Value of a Penny Rate: £120.

Estimated population (Mid 1954): 7,750.

Estimated Population (Mid 1953): 7,713.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH**Housing & Public Health Committee:**

Chairman: Councillor E. E. Bowles.

Water & Sewage Committee:

Chairman: Councillor F. C. Slaughter.

Finance & Rating Committee:

Chairman: Councillor H. Higgins.

Chairman of the Council:

1954/55: Councillor H. Storey.

1953/54: Councillor F. W. Sharpe.

Clerk to the Council:

D. J. Dear.

VITAL STATISTICS**LIVE BIRTHS**

	M.	F.	Total		
Legitimate	... 64	60	124	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population	... 16.8
Illegitimate	... 2	4	6	(Ditto for England and Wales)	... 15.2
Total	... 66	64	130		

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	... 2	1	3	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) births	... 22.6
Illegitimate	... -	-	-	(Ditto for England and Wales)	... 23.4
Total	... 2	1	3		

DEATHS (ALL AGES)

41	42	83	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	... 10.7
			(Ditto for England and Wales)	... 11.3

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	-	1	1
		—	—	—
Total	...	1	2	3

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	23.1
(Ditto for England and Wales)	...	25.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	16.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	166.6

CAUSES OF DEATH.

(Registrar General's List).

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	—
3	Syphilitic	...	1
4	Diphtheria	...	—
5	Whooping cough	...	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—
8	Measles	...	—
9	Other infective and parasite diseases	...	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	2
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	2
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	2
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	4
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	—
16	Diabetes	...	—
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	10
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	3
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	1
20	Other heart disease	...	9
21	Other circulatory diseases	...	1
22	Influenza	...	—
23	Pneumonia	...	2
24	Bronchitis	...	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	...	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	2
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, Abortion	...	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	4
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	—
34	All other accidents	...	1
35	Suicide	...	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	—
	Total all causes	...	41

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The following Laboratory Facilities have been available to this authority and to General Practitioners in the area:

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.
Tel. Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, PH.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.), Tennison Rd.,
Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance Services.

(i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service, operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders (Tel. Huntingdon 348).

(ii) An ambulance stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of infectious disease (Tel. Huntingdon 59).

(c) Home Nursing.

Nurse-midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the District:—

(i) A nurse residing in Great Staughton (Tel. Kimbolton 271), attended cases in Kimbolton, Great Staughton, Grafham, Perry, Tilbrook, Dillington and Hail Weston.

(ii) A nurse residing in Eltisley (Tel. Croxton 210), attended cases in Gt. Paxton, The Offords, Toseland, Yelling, Great Gransden, Waresley and Abbotsley.

(iii) A nurse residing in Brampton (Tel. Huntingdon 336), attended in Buckden, Diddington and Southoe.

(iv) A nurse residing in Great Staughton (Tel. Kimbolton 324), attended in Catworth and Covington.

(v) Little Paxton was attended by a nurse living in St. Neots (Tel. St. Neots 215).

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(1) The following Health Services, provided by the Huntingdon County Council, were available:—

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen.</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held.</u>
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	1st Thursday in month 10—11.30 a.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
		1st Friday in month, 10.30—11.30 a.m.	Village Hall, Great Staughton.
		Every Monday, 9.30—10.30 a.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

Dental	Pre-School and School-children.	1st Thursday in month, 10 a.m.—12 noon, 2.0—2.30 p.m.	Red Cross Room, High Street, St. Neots.
	Pre-Natal & Nursing Mothers.	Every Wednesday (except 2nd in month) and every Saturday. 10 a.m.—12 noon (by appointment).	Princes Street, Huntingdon.
Infant Welfare	Children (0—5 years)	Every Wednesday and Thursday, 2—4 p.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
		3rd Monday in month, 2—4 p.m.	Mandeville Hall, Kimbolton.
		3rd Tuesday in month, 2—4 p.m.	Methodist Schoolroom, Buckden.
		1st Friday in month 2—4 p.m.	Village Hall, Great Staughton.
		3rd Monday in month, 2—4 p.m.	Reading Room, Gt. Gransden.

(II) The following Health Services are the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, but administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council:—

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen.</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held.</u>
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and School-children.	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment, except in emergency), 10 a.m.—12 noon, 2—4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Orthopaedic	Ditto.	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month (by appointment), 10 a.m.—12 noon.	Ditto.

(III) The following Health Services are now provided by the Regional Hospital Board:—

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen.</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held.</u>
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays, 3—7 p.m. Wednesdays, 4—6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
Males:			
		Mondays, 5.30—7.0 p.m. Wednesdays, 5.30—7.0 p.m.	Out-Pat. Dept., Memorial Hosp., Peterborough.
Females:			
		Tuesdays, 10.30—12 noon Thursdays, 5.30—7.0 p.m.	

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) **Hospital Services.**

Fever:—Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provided facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	... 11
Whooping Cough	... 62
Diphtheria	... -
Measles	... -
Acute Pneumonia	... 2
Puerperal Pyrexia	... 4
Typhoid Fever	... -
Erysipelas	... 1
Acute Poliomyelitis	... -
Infective Hepatitis	... 7
	87

TUBERCULOSIS.

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1954: 40

Pulmonary: 28.

Non-Pulmonary: 12.

			New Cases.				New Cases				Deaths			
			—Diagnosed				Transfer							
			Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals			4	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary Immunisation	39	57	9	2	1	12	1	121
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	—	—	1	—	10	51	6	68

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the District of children up to the age of 15 years:

Age at 31-12-54	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	Under 15
i.e. born in year	1954	1953-1950	1949-1945	1944-1940	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A : 1950—1954	4	338	308	228	878
B : 1949 or earlier	—	—	204	262	466

REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954

WATER SUPPLY

Work was commenced during the year on laying a duplicate 5-inch pumping main from the Diddington Pumping Station to Stirtloe to enable a larger quantity of water to be pumped to the Buckden Reservoir. A glance at the water table later in this report will show the continued increase in consumption on this scheme. The duplicate main will also enable a supply to be maintained in the event of a damaged water main between the pumping station and Buckden. New and larger pumps were being installed at the beginning of 1955.

A site for the Kimbolton Water Tower was approved during the year and the approval of the Ministry is awaited concerning the erection of the tower and the laying of a loop main from Covington to Tilbrook Grange.

Bye-laws under Section 17 of the Water Act, 1945, were approved and brought into operation on the 1st November, 1954.

The Ford van was replaced during the year by a Land Rover and this will be an advantage bearing in mind the large length of main now laid in places other than the public highway.

Interruptions in supply of water occurred on thirty-four occasions due to burst water mains. Twenty of these bursts occurred on the Kimbolton Scheme, eight on the Abbotsley, four on the Gt. Staughton and two on the Buckden Scheme. On the Kimbolton and Abbotsley Schemes the cause of most of these bursts was exterior corrosion of the cast iron pipes.

Following an adverse bacteriological report upon a sample of water taken from a public well at Kimbolton, the Council decided not to close the well entirely as the local inhabitants wished to retain it for purposes other than human consumption and a notice was affixed to the well warning persons that the water was not fit for human consumption.

2,255 properties are now supplied with mains water and almost all the houses now enjoy this service which reflects great credit on the Council bearing in mind the large area and the small population involved. 80 houses were connected to the water mains during the

year, and water was extended inside 22 houses from outside standpipes. 4 houses were supplied by standpipe for the first time.

MAIN PIPED SUPPLIES.

Source of Supply.	Parishes Supplied.	Daily Consumption.
a. South Cambs. R.D.C.	Abbotsley, Waresley, Gt. Gransden, Tetworth and part of Eynesbury Hard.	20,791 galls.
b. Raunds U.D.C.	Kimbolton, Covington, Catworth, Tilbrook and Stow.	43,748 galls.
c. Diddington (St. Neots R.D.C.)	Buckden, Diddington, Grafham, Southoe, Lt. Paxton, Hail Weston, Offords, Gt. Paxton, Toseland and Yelling.	91,623 galls. (Includes Polish School)
d. Staughton Moor (St. Neots R.D.C.)	Gt. Staughton and Perry.	18,521 galls. (Includes H.M. Borstal Institution).
e. St. Neots U.D.C.	St. Neots Rural & Eynesbury Hardwicke.	Not known.

The daily average amount of water supplied remains about the same as last year, viz.: 24 gallons for all purposes of which the un-metered supply averages 14 gallons per head per day.

ANNUAL RAINFALL at Gt. Gransden Hall: 26.66 inches, an increase of 8.14 inches over the 1953 figure. Rain falling on 182 days.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS ON RAW WATER.

Eleven satisfactory samples and one unsatisfactory sample were obtained from the Diddington well. A sample of treated water taken at the same time as the unsatisfactory raw water sample was found to be satisfactory indicating that the treatment plant was functioning properly. All samples from Staughton Moor supply are raw in that this supply receives no treatment.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS ON TREATED WATER.

Satisfactory samples during the year numbered as follows: South Cambs. R.D.C., 11 samples; Raunds U.D.C., 12 samples; Diddington, 12 samples; Gt. Staughton, 12 samples; total 47 satisfactory samples.

In addition, one unsatisfactory sample was obtained from the South Cambs. R.D.C. supply the cause probably a burst water main and a repeat sample was satisfactory. Two unsatisfactory samples were obtained from the Raunds supply; one of these was from the mains and a repeat sample was satisfactory; the other sample was taken from the water tower supply at Kimbolton Airfield at the request of the Ministry of Works and the tank was subsequently cleaned out and chlorinated. The count was 1 B.Coli per 100 ml. of water for the two unsatisfactory samples from the mains. The total unsatisfactory samples was 3.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

One satisfactory sample was taken from each of the four Schemes during the year.

PRIVATE WELLS.

Wells closed as polluted: 4. Number of samples obtained for analysis found to be satisfactory: 13. Unsatisfactory: 11. Action taken: main water laid on where practicable and in other cases occupiers advised to boil all water intended for human consumption. Any insufficiency: none known.

REPORT ON WATER SUPPLY FOR THE ST. NEOTS RURAL DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1954

Estimated No. of Dwellings Supplied.

No. of Estimated Population Supplied.

Name of Town, Village or Parish	Source of Supply, Public Supply, Wells, etc.	Sufficiency or Otherwise	Quality of Water	Analyses of In- dividual Supplies		No. of such Analyses.	Direct from Main Supply.	By Stand-pipes.		Direct from Main Supply.	By Stand-pipes.	
				Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory, or none	Private Supplies only.			By Public or Private Wells.	By Public or Private Wells.			
Abbotsley	Public Main	Satis.		Nil		—	71	22	2	211	66	6
Buckden	"	"	"	Sat. 5 } 7			261	64	40	797	180	80
Catworth	"	"	"	Unsat. 2 }			54	39	5	148	110	15
Covington	"	"	"	Unsat. 1			23	5	3	71	10	9
Diddington	"	"	"	Nil			38	3	10	127(a)	11	30
Eynesbury H. U.D.C. & R.D.C. Mains & Wells	"	"	"	Nil			25	—	8	90	—	27
Grafham	Public Main	"	"	Nil			66	6	—	190	11	—
Gt. Gransden	"	"	"	Sat. 1			136	32	16	288	84	24
Gt. Paxton	"	"	"	Nil			122	2	1	353	6	3
Gt. Staughton	"	"	"	Sat. 1			206	49	15	725(b)	100	50
Hail Weston	"	"	"	Sat. 2			86	12	4	241	29	12
Kimbolton	"	"	"	Sat. 2			237	40	3	1183	100	6
	"	"	"	Unsat. 5 }						(day) (c)		
	"	"	"							(1018 night)		
Lt. Paxton	"	"	"	Nil			71	1	5	277	2	12
Offord Cluny	"	"	"	Nil			87	12	9	199	25	18
Offord Darcy	"	"	"	Nil			72	17	8	229	50	16
Southoe & Midloe	"	"	"	Nil			59	26	4	184	75	8
St. Neots Rural & Wells, R.D.C. Mains	"	"	"	Nil			18	—	—	72	—	—
Stow	Public Main	"	"	Nil			31	1	—	84	—	—
Tetworth	Biggswade Water Board South Cambs. R.D.C. Wells & Mains	"	"	Unsat. 2 }			16	5	10	59	15	33
	Public Main	"	"	Sat. 2								
Tilbrook	Public Main	"	"	Unsat. 1			71	6	4	180	18	10
Toseland	"	"	"	Nil			25	16	1	80	38	3
Waresley	"	"	"	Nil			43	5	10	127	16	27
Yelling	"	"	"	Nil			65	9	3	184	27	9
				24			1883	372	161	6099	973	398

Notes—(a) Does not include 500 average at Polish School.

(b) Includes H.M. Borstal Institution at Gaynes Hall.

(c) Includes Kimbolton School, 165 day pupils & 279 boarders.

Particulars regarding plumbo-solvent action connected with above supplies: Nil.

2416

Polish Camp ...

(Direct from Mains)

7970

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the latter part of 1954 the Contractors started work on the modified sewerage scheme covering the greater part of Buckden. At the end of the year approximately half of the new sewers had been laid but the sewage works had not been started. This is the first of the Council's post-war sewerage schemes authorised by the Ministry. It is regretted that consent was not given to at least including the whole of Buckden parish in this scheme and also the two parishes of Offord.

The Ministry Inquiry into the Kimbolton and Gt. Staughton Sewerage Scheme was held early in 1954 and negotiations took place with the Ministry during the year. A starting date has not yet been granted but the Scheme has been approved in principle.

9 piped sewers and 3 open ditches received attention during the year along with the cleansing of the Kimbolton Sewerage tanks. Sewerage works on the Council's old housing sites are regularly dealt with by the Council's Cesspool Emptier, as one afternoon per week is set aside for this work. 12 repairs were carried out to sewage works.

35 private cesspools and 56 Council cesspools or sewerage tanks were cleansed during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This service continued to operate as in previous years and the cost of emptying each dustbin remains the same at approximately $8\frac{1}{4}$ d. and each pail closet about $7\frac{1}{4}$ d. My remarks in last year's report still prevail about the need for an increased dustbin service, but financial consideration preclude an improvement at the present time.

A new privately owned refuse tip is being used at Abbotsley for the disposal of dry refuse. 3 controlled tips in addition to the aforementioned tip are still utilised.

SALVAGE.

The Council's workmen have collected the following salvage during the year :

Waste paper, rags and lead: total weight, 8 tons 7 cwts. 3 qtrs.
Value, £30.

PETROLEUM STORAGE LICENCES.

3 new licences were issued and 46 were renewed during the year making a total of 49 on the register.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

6 new licences were issued during the year and the total licensed is now 17. 6 improvements to conditions were made.

COUNCIL HOUSE MAINTENANCE.

1,316 inspections were made and 403 orders were issued for repairs. A further 28 pre-war Council houses were provided with an

approved type of solid fuel cooking appliance which will be capable of supplying hot water at a later date. A hot water installation was made in one pre-war Council house to supply an existing bathroom. All Council houses now have a main water supply and an electricity supply and some progress has been maintained in improving conditions in the pre-war houses, viz.: 10 E.C.'s converted to water closets and 6 houses supplied with bathrooms complete with hot water systems. Tenders have been invited for W.C.'s and bathrooms at a further 12 houses at Catworth and Gt. Staughton. The rate of progress is entirely governed by sewage disposal problems. Thermoplastic tile floors have been laid in 3 pre-war houses to replace wooden floors affected by dry rot.

NEW BUILDINGS.

113 plans of new buildings or alterations were deposited. 2 plans were withdrawn by the applicants as they did not comply with Bye-laws. 5 cases were discovered of buildings erected without plans being approved and in 4 cases alterations to comply with Bye-laws were made and in one case the building was removed. All the work being carried out by the owners. 518 visits were paid to works in progress.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

12 retailers are registered with the Council as all other dealers are producers also and therefore under the Ministry of Agriculture. 6 inspections of premises were carried out. 5 supplementary licences for T.T., 6 for pasteurised and 2 for sterilised milk were issued. 2 dealers are licensed for T.T. and pasteurised milks. The condition of a number of delivery vans was inspected and the owners' attention drawn to any defects found including the absence of the name and address of the retailer.

FOOD INSPECTIONS INCLUDING SLAUGHTERHOUSES

85 inspections of food premises were made and several improvements in conditions were noted. 28 places are still registered under Section 14 of the Act and one application for registration received during the year has been held in abeyance until the premises are brought up to standard. 88 lbs. of food was condemned as unfit for consumption, consisting of tinned fruit and meat and one sheep's carcase. All condemned food is disposed of either on the Council's tips or in boiler houses.

No clean food campaigns have been held and there are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area.

The number of food premises in the area remains as reported in 1953.

All slaughtering of animals until almost the end of the year was carried out in the St. Neots Urban district. A slaughterhouse was re-opened in December at Kimbolton and up to the 31st December, 3 beasts (other than cows) and 7 pigs were slaughtered and inspected. All were of good quality and no evidence of disease was found.

There is no change to report concerning the other 4 slaughterhouses in the area. All these were inspected when meat was decontrolled and the Council decided not to issue licences as the premises in their present condition were regarded as unfit for use. There is no change regarding slaughtermen's licences.

Court action was taken against a local butcher for using a slaughterhouse not licensed under Section 57 of the 1938 Act and also for failing to notify slaughter of sheep under the Public Health (Meat Regulations) 1924. The butcher was found guilty and fined a total of £20 plus costs.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
REPORT FOR 15 MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1955

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority Dwelling Houses	All other (in- cluding Business & Industrial)	Total	Agricul- tural	
I Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 & 2).	20	2065	167	2252	351
II Number of properties in- spected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	—	44	8	52	8
(b) Survey under the Act	5	39	5	49	2
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	12	8	20	21
III Total inspections carried out —including re-inspections	130	301	130	561	41
IV Number of properties inspect- ed (see Section II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats	Major	1	4	4	9
	Minor	3	55	7	65
(b) Mice	Major	—	—	—	2
					(also rats)
	Minor	—	2	—	2
V Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treat- ed by the Local Authority. (Notes 1, 2 & 3).	4	53	11	68	10
VI Total treatments carried out —including re-treatments ...	121	219	116	456	33

VII Number of notices served
under Section 4:—

(1) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works ... (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—

VIII Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act ...

— — — — —

IX Legal Proceedings ...

— — — — —

X Number of 'block' control schemes carried out ...

— 8 — 8 —

NEW HOUSING.

The number of new Council houses built is as follows:—

Parish	Completed during year	Under construction	Total built since 1945
Abbotsley	... —	—	12
Buckden	... 8	—	40
Gt. Gransden	... 8	—	32
Gt. Staughton	... 4	—	30
Gt. Paxton	... 12	—	36
Kimbolton	... 8	—	14
Offord Darcy	... 4	—	8
Offord Cluny	... —	—	30
Stow Longa	... —	—	4
Tilbrook	... —	—	8
Yelling	... —	—	14
Grafham	... 2	—	10
Hail Weston	... —	—	23
Little Paxton	... 10	12	14
Southoe	... —	—	8
Covington	... —	—	2
Catworth	... 4	—	4
	—	—	—
	52	12	289
	—	—	—

In addition, the Council own 20 Ministry of Works Prefabs. and 12 converted hutments (2 occupied) — these latter are now closed with the exception of the two occupied ones. The hutments will be demolished at a later date and new houses erected as and when required. One isolated hut was demolished.

8 new private enterprise houses were completed during the year and 1 additional house provided by conversion.

HOUSING INSPECTION.

There has been some progress during the year in dealing with unfit houses and the Council's policy generally is to try and deal with these cases as and when the houses are empty.

One small clearance area covering 4 houses was confirmed by the

Ministry and the houses are now empty pending demolition.

17 unfit houses have been dealt with formally under the Housing Act, 1936, and 5 houses have been demolished during the year. 5 houses have been rendered fit following undertakings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. 3 houses were dealt with informally and these are no longer used for human habitation as separate dwellings. Other defects reported or found have been dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936.

The housing survey carried out between 1945-48 is now in the process of being brought up to date in order that the Council can submit a report on methods of dealing with existing unsatisfactory houses to the Ministry before 30th August, 1955.

The interest displayed by the public in improvement grants is increasing and since the 1949 Act made grants possible the Council have received applications covering 30 houses and in 16 cases the work has been completed and grants paid. Most of the other cases are proceeding satisfactorily and grants will shortly be payable. 13 of these applications were received during 1954 and 8 of these are included in the completed schemes. It is pleasing to note that several of these schemes cover houses which are let; the rest of them are for owner-occupied houses.

HOUSING TABLE

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----|
| (1) (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... | 555 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | 692 |
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... | 555 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | 555 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 16 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... | 185 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	65
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (a) | Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 11 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:— | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... | — |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) | By owners. ... | 5 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners ... | — |

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 3
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners. ... 6
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 12
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 8
 - (3) Undertakings to make fit accepted or as to use ... 4
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... —
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... —
4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.
- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 1
 - (2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 1
 - (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 4
 - (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... —
 - (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 1
 - (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 6½
 - (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... —
 - (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... —

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE:—

Total number of notices served	...	211
Informal	...	208
Formal	...	3
Total number of notices complied with	...	85
Informal	...	79
Formal	...	6
Work in default	...	Nil

ANALYSIS OF INSPECTIONS MADE:—

Housing	... 293
Council House Maintenance	... 1316
Houses, etc. Under P.H. Act, 1936,	... 555
Houses, etc. Under P.H. Act, 1936, re-visits	... 137
Supervising erection of new buildings	... 518
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	... 186
Post-war Housing	... 91
Dairies	... 6
Bakehouses	... 10
Drains Tested	... 130
Infectious Disease	... 24
Rooms Disinfected	... 78
Vermin	... Nil.
Water Supply (samples taken bact. 86, chem. 4)	... 1036
Scavenging	... 64
Food Premises	... 85
Rats and Mice	... 41
Miscellaneous	... 60
Moveable Dwellings	... 78
Factories (with power)	... 10
Factories (without power)	... 5
Factories (other sites)	... 28
Housing Applications	... 40
Overcrowding	... 3
Petroleum	... 17
Street Numbering	... 111

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, ETC.

Number of houses with pail or tub closets in area (est.)	... 1350
Number of houses with W.C.'s in area (est.)	... 1066
Number of pails reconstructed as W.C.'s in 1954	... 8
Number of W.C.'s constructed in 1954 for new premises	... 67
Number of new pails provided	... Nil.
Number of new dustbins provided	... 25

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Total number on Register (including bakehouses)	... 68
Number of inspections	... 43
Number in which defects remedied (6 found)	... 6
Bakehouses, number on Register	... 9
Number in which defects remedied	... —
Number of notices served	... 5
Number of notices complied with	... 6

